Declaration of Tea as an Environmental Friendly Crop

3853. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board has asked the Central Government to recognise tea as an "environmental friendly crop" in order to get additional land for expansion and to speed up the present slow rate of replantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As very little land is available for expansion of tea cultivation in the traditional tea growing areas, Tea Board has suggested that planting of tea may be allowed in the degraded forest land available within the grant area of the existing tea estates as also in their periphery.

(c) The proposal has not been favoured because the plantation crops like tea etc. which have a commercial advantage, could be cultivated on non-forest land thereby ensuring general environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance.

Packaging of Indian Exports

3854. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the type of packaging and the get-up of Indian goods exported from India are far inferior as compared to the intrinsic content of those goods;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise. However, the Indian Institute of Packaging, a grantee institute of Ministry of Commerce has been interacting with Indian industries and obtaining contemporary technology on Packaging and Package-testing from abroad to keep the standard of packaging upgraded to the level of International standards. The institute has been giving guidance and also disseminating information on the types of machinery required for various packaging operations and the demand therefor in the country.

Incentives to State Governments to Boost Export

3855. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sponsored/propose to sponsor certain schemes to give incentives to the State Governments so that the latter could build infrastructure facilities to boost the export effort; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :

(a) and (b) A scheme for providing incentives to the State Governments to build infrastructural facilities for Export Oriented Units is under the consideration of the Government.